

*P. J. Henry*

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RURAL DISTRICT OF WEST ASHFORD, KENT



ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957



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WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and  
Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1957.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1957.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 10,360 which was an increase of 30, over that of 1956.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 157 (76 male, 81 female), an increase of 1 over that of 1956, and the crude birth rate was accordingly 15.15; adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor, which is based on a standardised population, the rate becomes 15.90; that of England and Wales was 16.1. The high post-war birth rates have now declined to an equilibrium around 16.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 5 (3 male, 2 female) and the stillbirth rate was accordingly 30.86, compared with that of 22.4 for England and Wales. There are unavoidable and avoidable stillbirths, and adequate ante-natal and obstetric care/essential to keep the latter at a minimum.  
are

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Five infant deaths (2 male, 3 female) were registered, and the infantile mortality rate was accordingly 30.86, compared with that of 22.4 for England and Wales.

(It should be noted, however, that all these figures are too small for precise statistical comparisons, as small variations would influence the rates disproportionately).

At the beginning of the Century in 1901, there were 138 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births in contrast to the present national rate of 23, which is a reflection of the great progress that medical science has achieved.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

There were no deaths from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion and the rate was therefore nil.

Also at the beginning of this Century, the mortality rate was relatively high, having been five deaths for every 1,000 total (live and still) births; today the figure is less than one, which represents approximately 500 maternal deaths annually, throughout the Country.

Toxaemia of pregnancy is the principal cause of these deaths and many could be prevented by early diagnosis and treatment, or in other words, by adequate ante-natal care.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 190 (104 male, 86 female), and the crude death rate was accordingly 18.34. This high crude rate is due to the fact that a Hospital for the Chronic Sick, namely Hothfield Hospital, is within the District where the mortality is naturally higher; the Registrar General's comparability factor makes allowance for this, and when applied to



the crude rate, the adjusted rate becomes 9.71, and compares favourably with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

The chief cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, most of which occurred amongst the aged.

Disease of the coronary artery of the heart is however an exception as many middle-aged persons become victims. The ages at death were 40, 51, 53, 55, 61, 64, 65 years and upwards. It is thought that continuous stress and excessive smoking are important contributory causes.

Cancer, as expected, caused the second highest number of deaths, in all 35. Although the majority of these were amongst the aged and probably associated with procrastination in seeking medical advice, many younger lives could be saved or prolonged by reasonably early diagnosis and treatment.

Cancer of the Lung caused two deaths, both males, aged 66 and 76 years. The postulation that gross atmospheric pollution and excessive smoking are important contributory factors or primary causes, has many advocates. In contrast, however, there were five deaths from Cancer of the Breast, which is less difficult to diagnose and to treat successfully.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual influence.

### Infectious Diseases

#### Measles

The bi-ennial outbreak of Measles occurred, 140 cases having been notified. There was one death due to its chief complication viz. broncho-pneumonia. Commonly Measles is not a serious disease unless this complication supervenes and treatment by Antibiotics is rarely unsuccessful unless the pneumonia has become too far advanced, a stage which may be reached within 24 hours.

Gamma globulin from convalescent serum is available at the Public Health Laboratory for protection but is only occasionally required on behalf of a child who is suffering from some other serious illness; if given within five days from exposure, it should prevent the onset of measles, and if several days later it should modify the attack.

#### Whooping Cough

There was also a small outbreak of Whooping Cough, 31 cases having been notified. As with Measles, this disease despite its distressing symptoms, is not commonly serious, unless broncho-pneumonia supervenes or unless the secretions in the respiratory tract cause partial collapse of the lung and asphyxiation; as this is particularly likely to happen in infants, they should be shielded from infection if possible.

It is hoped that the modern vaccines, which are now available at the Child Welfare Centres in addition to those at first available through the family Practitioner, will effectively protect those inoculated.

#### Scarlet Fever

Four sporadic cases of this disease were notified. At the present time, this disease is not so serious as it was in the last and early part of this Century when it caused considerable mortality and disability, such as deafness and heart and kidney disease; the most common complication today is Otitis Media.

The majority of cases are mild and are treated at home. Treatment by sulphonamides or antibiotics is specific and has largely replaced the use of antitoxin.

#### Erysipelas

Three cases of this disease were notified. This was formerly a serious



disease before the introduction of the sulphonamides in 1936 and of the later antibiotics, which are specific in treatment.

### Poliomyelitis

One case of non-paralytic illness was notified, and the patient made a complete recovery.

There are firm grounds for optimism that vaccination which is proceeding with British, Canadian and American vaccines as quickly as supplies become available, will prevent the onset of this serious disease or at least the onset of paralysis.

### Asian Influenza

A wide-spread outbreak of this illness occurred early in the Autumn, which is an unusual season for an outbreak of Influenza. The virus originated from China and Japan and rapidly became world-wide in distribution.

The virus was identified locally from throat swabs and blood agglutination tests as Asian A/England/527/57.

The illness usually began with a high temperature which gradually declined to normal about the fifth day. The main site of infection was the upper respiratory tract, and acute tracheitis with an intractable unproductive cough was common. Incapacity was on an average from seven to fourteen days.

The illness was not serious unless secondary infection of the lungs by other organisms occurred; of these the most virulent was the Staphylococcus Aureus and several fulminating deaths in other Districts occurred from this cause.

It was anticipated that a second wave of infection might occur later in the Winter but apart from a few sporadic cases, this did not eventualise.

As the disease was not notifiable, the actual number of cases in the District was not known.

### Tuberculosis

Only one new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified, and no non-respiratory cases which in general terms is an index of the safety of the milk and meat supplies of the District.

There was only one death which is a reflection of the progress which has been achieved in treatment within recent years.

There are now no waiting lists for Sanatorium beds, and treatment in many cases can be maintained at home after discharge.

The Mass Radiography Service is of great value in detecting early or unsuspected cases who would have become open sources of infection to others and who respond much more quickly to treatment. Today treatment is only ineffective when the lungs are grossly damaged.

After a protracted and expensive uphill struggle against this disease which has been a scourge of man for Centuries and was appropriately called the White Plague, medical science and preventive public Health measures have virtually conquered this disease and a new horizon of hope has been reached.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest and assistance in the work of the department and also the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1957

Area:- 39,453 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	10,360
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	--------

Number of Inhabited Houses According to  
the Rate Books

...	...	...	3,500
-----	-----	-----	-------

Rateable Value

...	...	...	£95,417
-----	-----	-----	---------

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

...	...	...	£375
-----	-----	-----	------

Social Conditions

West Ashford Rural District is predominately agricultural in character - there are only a few light industries. The Council has been a progressive Housing Authority, having built 603 post-war houses and altogether own 719 houses. Generally social conditions are very satisfactory.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>West Ashford Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Live Births	157	76	81	Birth Rate	15.15	16.1
(a) Legitimate	150	72	78	per 1,000	(Adjusted	
(b) Illegitimate	7	4	3	estimated	rate 15.9)	
				resident		
				population		
Stillbirths	5	3	2	Rate per	30.86	22.4
(a) Legitimate				1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate				(live and		
				still)		
				births		
Deaths	190	104	86	Death rate	18.34	11.5
				per 1,000	(Adjusted	
				resident	rate 9.71)	
				population		
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per	-	Not
				1,000 (live		available
				and still)		
				births		
Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age	5	2	3			
(a) Legitimate	3	1	2			
(b) Illegitimate	2	1	1			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					30.86	23.0
Rate re legitimate infants					20.00	
Rate re illegitimate infants					285.71	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					35	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					-	
Deaths from Measles					1	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1957.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	31
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	140
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEST ASHFORD RURAL  
DISTRICT DURING 1957

ALL CAUSES				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
				104	84
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	5	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	14	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	2	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	9	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	18	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	2	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	25	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	3	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	8	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-



TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	40	13	4
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
Total	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and  
Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of Persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations	-	-	3	-	1	4	2	2	4	3	1	-	12	79	6	117
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	2	3	14	9	1	16	55	2	-	-	-	-	102

(B) VACCINATION

																Before 1943	
Primary Vaccination	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	39	54	2	101
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1953 - 1957	53	61	56	44	77	121	114	89	97	119	108	100	116	87	6	124
1952 or earlier	49	31	45	68	57	13	6	39	39	11	-	-	-	-	-	35

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1957

The following table gives the numbers of children who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

Born	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
	53	47	45	37	17	14	16	11	1	-	-	241



Public Health Department,  
2 Elwick Road,  
ASHFORD, Kent.

To: The Chariman and Members of the

West Ashford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the Sanitary circumstances existing in the rural district for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

Throughout the year the office work has been carried out by a part-time clerk who has attended only during afternoons. Although her work was exceptionally good the department was left unattended for half of the day. This resulted in a multiplicity of messages relayed from other offices. Special attention has been paid to one hundred per cent meat inspection and this has entailed long hours of overtime. The eradication of unfit houses is proceeding satisfactorily but the speed is measured by the ability to re-house the tenants concerned. The Housing Repairs and Rent Act has brought some additional inspection work but the application for Rent Restriction Certificates has been lower than expected. The inspection of the various food premises under the Food and Drugs Act and Hygiene Regulations has not been as swift as anticipated but is hoped to complete the survey during 1958.

The provision of sewers in unsewered areas is the only satisfactory answer to cesspool emptying and the safe disposal of the contents.

The possibility of disease from cesspool overflows is always in mind when summer approaches and Poliomyelitis becomes active.

(1) WATER SUPPLY

The Mid Kent Water Company services the whole of the rural district. To this is added a couple of private systems to hamlets. An extension to the Mid Kent mains during the year has given one further hamlet a satisfactory water supply. Approval has been obtained for another extension in the Egerton Area, and with its completion, practically all the houses except those in remote spots will have a safe water supply.

The following samples of water were submitted for examination.

		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Treated Water (Mid Kent)	12	12	Nil
Mains	9	8	1
Raw Water (Mid Kent)	5	5	Nil
Treated Water Chemical - Analysis	2	2	Nil

Mid Kent Water Connections during 1957	37
Houses supplied by Mid Kent Water Company	3252
Houses supplied by pipe from Private Sources	176
Wells etc.	72
Total Houses in Area.	3500

#### SWIMMING BATHS

There is one privately owned swimming bath in the district. This was regularly used by the public during the summer months but was closed in September when the Hotel was changed to a College of Technology.

Two samples of water were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The report stated that "Though not of the highest bacteriological quality the water would on most standards be regarded as acceptable for bathing."

#### (2) DRAINAGE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Although no actual work was started on new sewers during 1957, Ministry approval was obtained to sewer part of Pluckley village and to modernise the small out-dated works at Bethersden and Egerton. The Pluckley scheme will be started early in 1958.

5 Villages have main drainage.

1 Village is part sewered.

5 Villages have no main drainage

#### SCHOOL SANITATION

In general the village schools have satisfactory toilet facilities. Only one school is still serviced by trough closets.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council operates one public convenience in the largest village. Wash basins are provided for both ladies and gents, but the provision of soap is still a problem as it is stolen or otherwise disposed of as soon as it is put out.

Minor damage is still being caused, in all probability the work of the irresponsible youth of the village.



CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council empties the cesspools of private dwellings twice each year on request.

This service is maintained by the employment of a contractor. In the main his work is satisfactory and he is always willing to do urgent emptying at short notice.

Properties Serviced.		
Private	1104	£1802 - 10s - 0d.
Council	205	£543 - 10s - 0d.
	Total =	£2346 - 0s - 0d.

Many properties have not requested any emptying whatsoever whilst others have only needed the service once.

Taking the average figure of £1-7s-6d as the cost of emptying one cesspool then only 207 cesspools required a second emptying which points to the fact that no-one has taken undue advantage of the Council's decision to empty cesspools twice where required.

(3) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The following table indicates the approximate number of the various types of food premises in the area.

Cafes and Restaurants	9
Confectioners	5
Butchers Shops	9
Grocers & General shops	37
Licensed Premises	31
Slaughter houses	4

During the year under review 602 routine visits were paid to the above mentioned food premises in an endeavour to ensure that clean and safe food was sold to the public.

It would be erroneous to suggest that all food shops are perfect and even the larger hotels need constant reminding of minor points in food handling. All food establishments have been provided with copies of the Food Hygiene Act, and should know the minimum requirements.

(a) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Of the four licensed slaughterhouses in this district one is used for local and wholesale slaughtering, two for local needs only, and one has

contd...

not operated throughout 1957.

The throughput of carcasses has increased by over 4,000. To maintain 100% inspection entailed late evenings, Saturday and Sunday work, which approximated over 500 hours of overtime. Inspection was alternated weekly by the Senior and additional Public Health Inspectors.

All meat condemned is stained with a green dye at the slaughterhouses to prevent its misuse. This meat and offal is bought by a glue Company for processing and by Ashford Valley Foxhounds for animal feeding stuffs.

When the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulation is passed no slaughterhouse in this district will be capable of being brought up to the minimum suggested standards. Plans are being prepared for a modern abbattior at Charing on a site that has already received approval by Planning Authorities.

The following table shows the details of the animals slaughtered, together with the number and percentage affected by disease. 1956 figures are given below those for 1957.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed and inspected 1956	690 (595)	169 (185)	688 (500)	9136 (4070)	1264 (2160)	12047 7510
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>	1	-	-	5	1	7
Whole carcasses con- demned. 1956.	(-)	(-)	(-)	(3)	(1)	(4)
Carcasses of which some part of organ was con- demned. 1956.	104 (93)	81 (68)	2 (2)	139 (73)	36 (82)	362 (318)
% of the no. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis. 1956.	15.2 (14.8)	30 (36.7)	.29 (.4)	1.5 (1.8)	2.9 (.8)	49.89 (54.5)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>	2	-	-	-	-	2
Whole carcasses condemned 1956.	(-)	(1)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(1)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. 1956.	40 (23)	37 (14)	- -	- -	11 (29)	88 (66)
% of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. 1956.	6.09 (3.8)	13.5 (8.1)	- (.19)	- -	.8 (1.3)	20.39 (13.39)

CONTD.....



SLAUGHTERHOUSES contd..

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs	Total
<u>CYSTICEROSIS</u>	2	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned. 1956.	(2)	-	-	-	-	(2)
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration 1956.	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Generalised and totally condemned. 1956.	- (1)	-	-	-	-	- (1)

C. Bovis was discovered in three carcasses. In two of the beasts the cysts were found to be not viable and after further inspection the meat was passed. The third carcass was submitted to refrigeration for twenty one days at 10°C.

The percentage of beasts and cows affected by Tuberculosis increased by approximately 3% and 5% respectively but the percentage was lower in the pig carcasses.

The incidence of other diseases is about the same as in the past two years.

<u>TABLE OF DISEASES</u>		<u>Lbs Meat</u>	<u>Lbs Offal</u>
2 Carcasses Beasts	General Tuberculosis	1332	-
1 Carcase Beast	Accidental Death Strangulation	350	-
Carcase Sheep	Malignant Growths	60	-
3 Carcasses Sheep	Fevered	258	-
1 Carcase Sheep	Emaciation	7	-
1 Carcase pig	Septicaemia	74	-
10 Ribs Cow	Tuberculosis	77	-
10 Ribs Beast	Tuberculosis	86	-
9 Pigs Heads	Tuberculosis	97	-
1 Pigs Head	Actinomycosis	12	-
1 Pigs leg	Bruising	18	-
		<u>2371</u>	
Edible Offal			4721½
Australian Beef	Lipotomous	28	
		<u>2399</u>	<u>4721½</u>

Total Meat Condemned 3 tons 3 cwts. 2 qtrs : 8½ lbs

contd...

Miscellaneous foodstuffs condemned 1299 lbs.

Spanish Peaches

Total foodstuffs condemned

3 tons 15 cwts. 1 qtr. 21½ lbs.

(b) SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1935

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the Register at 31st December, 1957, was eleven.

(c) KNACKERS YARDS (OFFENSIVE TRADE)

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the area.

Seven visits were paid to the premises. At all times cleanliness was in evidence and the disposal and segregation of bones, hides, etc, was satisfactory.

Main electricity has been installed to replace a private dynamo supply and piped water is being laid on to replace existing well supply.

(d) LICENSED PREMISES

The Public houses and licensed clubs in the district are kept in a satisfactory manner and nearly all have hot water piped to the bar washing up facilities. One premise has been entirely modernised and new conveniences provided. It seems impossible to divorce the trade from using cloths as mediums for drying and polishing glasses as this gives the gleam to glass that no detergent seems able to impart. Most inspections were off duty visits when it is easier to watch the day to day technique in progress.

(e) MILK SUPPLIES

There are three registered dairies in the district but these appear to be used only as accommodation for pre-bottled milk. No milk is pasteurised in the area and all milk distributed is of the special designated varieties.

The undermentioned licences were granted during the year.

	Tuberculin Tested.	Pasteurised	Sterilised.
Dealers Licences	4	7	2
Supplementary Licences	6	5	-
Totals	10	12	2

During the year one sample of mixed milk was submitted for bacteriologic examination. This was found free of Tuberculosis and Br. Abertus.

contd....



(f) BAKEHOUSES

7 Visits were paid to the various bakehouses within the district. All were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(g) ICE CREAM PREMISES

45 shops and other premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. All ice cream sold is of the pre-wrapped variety. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

4. HOUSING

(a) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act 1957, received during the year, numbered only four. In each instance the owner has undertaken to do the work and no Certificates were issued.

(b) There were 54 applications for improvements which were considered and approved by the Housing Committee involving in grant aid £15,635-4-8 which works out at approximately £289-0-0 per cottage.

Grant aid does much to preserve and prolong the life of existing rural cottages and to modernise other properties in the area and so cut down the need for demolition proceedings and notices of disrepair.

(c) DEMOLITION AND CLOSING OF UNFIT HOUSES

The speed by which unfit houses are closed and/or demolished can only be measured by the ability of the Council to re-house the tenants. The Housing programme being brought to a temporary halt because of the high interest rates must slow down action under the Housing Act, and the figures of unfit houses submitted to the Minister as being dealt with in a five year cycle must now be cut.

The old cottages so inherently defective as to require demolition will come to light from time to time and some provision for this type should be included in any building programme.

No. of houses represented as unfit.	7
No. of houses demolished (1956 Order)	3
No. of houses where scheme to render fit accepted	2
No. of houses where undertaking not to use accepted	3
No. of closing orders made for parts of buildings	1

contd...

The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review.

W.Cs provided		46
W.Cs repaired		1
Wash basins provided		32
Sinks		35
Hot water systems provided		39
Baths provided		36
Drains cleansed/repaired		3
Inspection chambers provided/repaired		73
Pail closets converted/demolished		24
Cesspools/septic tanks provided		16
Chimneys repaired		2
Roofs repaired		4
Roofs and gutters repaired		2
Brickwork of walls repaired		6
Internal walls and ceiling repaired.		8
Floors and staircases repaired/renewed		4
Doors and windows repaired/renewed		3
Bedding cleansed/destroyed		1
Foodstores provided/renewed		30
-----		
No.of inspections of all kinds during year		1521
No.of formal notices served	1957	4
No.of informal notices served	1957	27
No. of complaints received.	1957	51
No.of premises disinfested/disinfected	1957	9
No.of premises connected to main sewers		10
No.of premises connected to cesspool/septic tanks		26
No.of dwellings built by private enterprise.		33

contd...



## 5 CONTROL OF INFESTATION

### (a) RODENT CONTROL.

The council employs one full time rodent operator.

The summary of the work executed is given in tabulated form.

	Council Property	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises.	Agricultural Properties	Total
No.of Properties Surveyed	14	235	18	217	284
No.found to be infested with rats/mice.	14	136	18	48	216
No.of visits made for the purpose of treating properties.	113	1075	147	387	1722

A maintenance treatment of sewers was carried out in April 1957 at the villages of:-

Great Chart, Bethersden, Smarden Bell, Smarden and Charing.

The sewers of the first three systems were found to be free from rats and were cleared by the Ministry from further treatment until Spring 1960. Six monthly treatments were ordered for Charing and Smarden.

The first treatment for the Hothfield system is scheduled for Spring 1958.

A summary of the sewer treatment follows:-

#### June 1957.

	No.of manholes baited	No.of manholes infested
Smarden Bell	19	Nil
Bethersden	35	Nil
Great Chart	11	Nil
Charing	25	Nil
Smarden	26	16
Total	116	32

CONTD.....

October 1957

	No. of manholes baited	No. of manholes infested
Charing	24	4
Smarden	25	2
Total	49	6

These two treatments were carried out using 5% warfarin, 25% P.N.P. (Mould inhibitor) 5% Technical White Oil, 5% sugar, and apparently proves that this now though lengthier treatment does kill off the rat families which though living in the sewers only come to the manholes at uncertain periods for feeding.

(b) INSECT PESTS

The usual crop of wasp and bee infestations between the walls of dwellings were reported. Domestic properties were treated free and a small charge was made for extermination on other premises.

The kitchens of Hothfield Hospital were heavily infested with cockroaches and after local treatment proved ineffective, the kitchens, dining and boiler rooms were 'fogged' with insecticide by mechanical means.

Four houses were disinfested of fleas and in one instance all bedding was burnt.

(6) TIPS

There is only one tip in use by the Council. Crude tipping is carried out at this disused stone quarry. Pilfering has been rife during the year. Rodent Control has been carried out every eight weeks and this has kept the rat population in check.

(7) REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND SALVAGE

Two vehicles and five staff carry out refuse collections in the district. The built-up areas have a weekly collection and the more remote parts a fortnightly clearance.

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Salvage is collected at the same time and householders assist greatly in packaging and segregating the waste paper etc. Although the mills have ordered a restricted intake, so far no undue accumulation of paper has occurred. The income from salvage I feel is quite satisfactory.

	Tons.	cwts.	£	s	d
Mixed waste paper and cardboard	189	19	1233-	0	- 0
Old metals, rags etc.	94	5			

This works out at something over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwts. of salvage per house

#### (8) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The problem of gypsies, dealers and the like in the area is still present. In the main, sites are chosen to place their caravans on private ground, without permission.

Water is cadged from the nearest houses and the disposal of waste water, excrement, food scraps, old furniture, tins etc., takes place anywhere in the surrounding neighbourhood. Besides the danger to health, there is the spoiling of the natural beauties of the countryside and the nucleus for unofficial dumping grounds.

Although it is usual to shelve this problem, a joint effort is required for local bodies to provide a winter camping ground, for these nomadic people. An area should have a water supply, means of disposal of the normal household refuse and a foul drainage system.

#### (9) FACTORIES ACT 1937

Owing to pressure of other work no organised inspection of factories has taken place, but visits were made on complaints or whenever time permitted.

~~Atmospheric~~ pollution has so far not been a problem but the area contains a paper making factory and a Brick works from which smoke nuisances could occur.

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(10) SHOPS ACT 1950

No routine inspections were made under section 38, to check the sanitary and other welfare arrangements where assistants or young people are employed.

(11) HOP PICKERS CAMPS

Four visits were paid to the three camps during the picking season. Only one was fully used. Growers are increasingly using local pickers and the need for East London families diminishes annually.

The camp in full use is easily the best maintained, with wash basins, kitchens and a good scavenging service. Although there were residents living in the near vicinity no complaints were received of noise or other unruly conduct.

(12) COURT ACTION

During the year one court case was successfully taken, and one appeal for excessive rents was heard before the Rent Tribunal.

(a) RENT TRIBUNAL

This action was successful in getting rents reduced of a building converted into flats.

Subsequently an extra bathroom and w.c. were provided and an attic flat closed.

(b) SECTION 50 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1938 (Overflowing Cesspool)

Following complaints of cesspool overflowing and causing a nuisance by covering the road with sewage and mud, a statutory notice was served and upon non-compliance a summons was issued. The magistrates ruled for the Council and there was a fine inflicted with costs.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Arthur H. Hayes,

Senior Public Health Inspector